The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1650 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1942 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 32, NO. 47

WE PLEDGE—
1 BILLION DOLLARS
IN
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

We caught a tiger by the tail last week when we suggested that the CIO submit an audited report on the paid-up membership in its affiliated unions in order to facilitate the mechanics of bringing about labor peace.

In response, the Executive Board of the United Steelworkers of America, a CIO affiliate of which Philip Murray is president, issued a horrid blast calling us a lot of names. The statement said we are "very ignorant." We admit the charge and confess we are still completely ignorant of the dues-paid membership in the CIO after reading the statement. It shed no light on that mysterious subject.

However, we see no good in continuing such a grandstand quarrel at a time when the peace committee plan for AFL and CIO are about to sit down together to try to work out a settlement.

Our purpose in raising the issue was not to embarrass the peace conference but to point the way for the CIO to cooperate in making them successful. The reaction of the CIO to our suggestion does not indicate any burning desire on its part to be helpful.

A Nuisance Raid

Another straw in the wind which is disturbing to sincere advocates of labor peace is the attempted raid by the CIO, with the collaboration of the National Labor Relations Board, on the Henry J. Kaiser shipyards on the West Coast which are under closed shop contract with the AFL unions.

This is truly a "nuisance" raid. It can do the CIO no good and it can do the nation a great deal of harm. The AFL does not fear the outcome of an election in the shipyards covered by the NLRB complaint but it does fear the effects of a bitter union campaign in a thoroughly organized industry where labor-management cooperation has reached the peak of efficiency and where uninterrupted top production is vital to the success of the war effort.

Aside from the motives of the CIO in pressing such a hopeless raid at this time, we would like to delve into the motives of the National Labor Relations Board in giving it official approval.

The crux of the NLRB position is that it is illegal under the Wagner Act for an employer and a union to enter into a closed shop contract before any appreciable number of employes have been hired to work in the plant concerned.

This interpretation of the law is completely unsound and at variance with the established practice of trade unions. In the building trades industry, for example, practically all contracts are entered into by management and labor organizations before any employes are hired. In fact, the union is the employment agency for the workers. It supplies the men after the contract is signed. The same practice is employed frequently in the metal trades. And even the maritime unions follow it through their hiring halls.

An Axis Victory

Thus the NLRB is striking at the fundamental trade union procedures when it hauls Henry J. Kaiser up on the carpet and accuses him of unfair labor practices when he has only complied with the fair and just demands of democratic trade unions.

The suspicion that the NLRB is trying to change the form and structure of American trade unions by misinterpretations of the National Labor Relations Act is confirmed by the action in this case.

It would be different if Mr. Kaiser were a tough, oppressive employer. But his workers and the unions that represent them testify he is a model employer. He has gone the limit in cooperating with labor. He has installed an enthusiastic, cooperative spirit among his men. They are producing for him as perhaps no other comparable group of workers are producing for any other war industrialist.

No wonder that President Green denounced the board's action in this case as the "outstanding Axis victory of the month!"

It is significant that the protests of the American Federation of Labor are echoed by practically every agency in the Federal Government concerned with the war effort. Representatives of the Maritime Commission, the Labor Department, the War Production Board and other top agencies failed in vain to prevail upon the unrealistic members of the NLRB not to issue the complaint against Mr. Kaiser.

But these bureaucrats apparently are indifferent to any considerations beyond their own determination to reshape the labor movement according to their own preconceived ideas. Their predecessors also made the same mistake. They are now out of public life.

Army, Navy Heads Urge War Workers Not To Enlist In Armed Forces

Stimson and Knox Declare Production Soldiers Are Engaged In Vital Duty

Washington, D. C.—The Army and Navy appealed to shipyard, shipyard and other war plant workers to remain at their jobs rather than enlist.

Secretary Stimson and Secretary Knox said in a joint statement:

"During the past months a large number of men employed in aircraft industries, shipyards and other war plants have resigned their positions in order to enlist in the Army or Navy. The patriotic motive which has prompted such action is in accordance with the high traditions established in the previous wars which our country has fought.

"However, in the present world-wide struggle the task of maintaining an increasing flow of the tools with which we fight is as important as that of effectively using those tools in battle. You men who are engaged in this vital work should remember that your government, and your fellow-citizens, are clear in their convictions that you are doing your full duty in staying at your present posts and that until you are called or until your services can be spared."

Teamsters Service To War Effort Shown By Huge Trucking Boost

Washington, D. C.—The tremendous magnitude of the service being rendered to the war effort by the half-million members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters was disclosed in figures made available by the Office of Defense Transportation showing that truck tonnage has increased more than 1,000 per cent over last year.

Everyone knows that the railroads are carrying far greater loads since the war began, but the role of truck transportation in the war effort has been obscured.

Yet the figures show that despite gasoline rationing and the tire shortage which have cut down truck deliveries to civilians to a large extent, truck transportation for war purposes has grown by leaps and bounds.

The total truck haul in August, September and October of last year was 22,700 loads, aggregating 165,000 tons. But this year, the ODT revealed, 1,186,606 tons of freight have been transported by trucks in 144,759 loads. The minimum load is now 10 tons.

Thus, it becomes clear that the success of our war program depends heavily on the services of members of the teamsters union who are delivering supplies to war factories and hauling munitions from war plants to embarkation points.

U. S. Agencies Lined Up Against Longer Work Week, Perkins Says

Indianapolis.—Secretary Perkins declared here that studies by Federal agencies showed that standard 40-hour-a-week working hours cause time lost and labor wastage.

The Secretary of Labor said that the Maritime Commission, the Public Health Service, the Labor Department, the War Production Board, the Manpower Commission and the Department of Commerce joined with the War and Navy Departments in the studies, which showed that the seven-day week for individuals should be discouraged because it is injurious to health and efficiency, to production and to morale.

"They warn against too long daily and weekly hours," she continued, "and ask plants that are exceeding the forty-eight-hour schedule to analyze the experience with regard to output and time lost on account of absenteeism, illness, accident and fatigue. It has been found repeatedly that excessive working hours are apparently causing time lost and labor wastage which make the practice totally uneconomical."

Some suggestions have been made in Congress that the forty-hour basic pay law be abolished to speed war production. Those suggestions, however, have been frowned upon by the administration.

Miss Perkins, in her address to the National Conference on Labor Legislation, said that renewed efforts should be made to prevent industrial accidents and illness. She declared that last year the industrial accident toll brought a production loss equivalent to the full-time work of 800,000 men and women.

A 48-hour workweek, providing for time-and-a-half pay for all work over 40 hours, was induced as necessary to the war effort by the conference.

AFL-CIO Peace Conferences Set To Start Dec. 1 In Washington

Washington, D. C.—Peace conferences between committees representing the American Federation of Labor and the CIO will open here in the nation's capital on Dec. 1.

This was announced by Harry C. Bates, chairman of the AFL Peace Committee, after a conference in Cincinnati with Philip Murray, CIO and other members of the AFL Committee are Vice Presidents Daniel J. Tobin and William L. Hutcheson.

This is the third time since the original split occurred in 1935 that formal conferences have been instituted to reunite the ranks of organized labor under the banner of the American Federation of Labor. The first two attempts ended in failure.

Members of the AFL Committee made it clear that they will exert every effort to bring about a prompt settlement of the differences between the two organizations. However, they did not regard the action of the recent CIO convention on the issue of labor peace as conducive to success. Failure of the CIO to submit a statement of its dues-paid membership was regarded as one of the most serious obstacles to working out amalgamations of rival unions operating in the same fields.

Navy To Aid War Plant Rallies Marking First Anniversary of War

Washington, D. C.—The Navy Department announced that it is cooperating with labor, Government agencies and commercial plants engaged in the naval procurement program to make December 7, 1942, an inspiring occasion at factories and shipyards throughout the United States.

The Navy will assist in any ceremonies held in war production plants on the first anniversary of the entrance of the United States into the war. Upon request, the Navy will send naval officers and enlisted men, preferably those who have been in combat, into the factories for plant rallies, visits, rallies and talks to the workers.

The general theme of increasing production for the fleet will be stressed, as will be the fact that the men on the performance of their products workers who are producing weapons under combat conditions.

School Heads' Ouster For Backing Union Principles Fought By Labor

Madison, Wis.—Can public officials be thrown out of office because they are pledged to support the principles of organized labor?

That important issue was argued before the Wisconsin Supreme Court by attorneys representing School Boss Weston and Edward Rice, who had been elected members of the Kenosha school board, but who were removed from office by order of Circuit Judge A. C. Hoppmann, one of the state's most notorious anti-labor jurists.

Ruling on an ouster suit instituted by reactionary Kenosha employers, Hoppmann held that because Weston and Rice were loyal to the labor movement, they had lost "independent judgment" and could not sit on the board.

Considering the issue of national importance, the American Civil Liberties Union is now in the appeal to the State Federation of Labor and Kenosha unions in the appeal to the Supreme Court to overrule Hoppmann's decision.

The State Federation of Labor declared that the verdict "threatens the American system of free elections and mocks the desires of the electorate."

Arguments For 40-Hour Week Repeal Punctured By Government Officials

Washington, D. C.—Not a war industry in the nation is operating on less than a 40-hour week—except for those plants that are on continuous process operations of four 40-hour shifts a week.

That important disclosure came from the man who is the War Department to know the facts—Ford Hinrichs, acting commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Hinrichs has been running the bureau since President Roosevelt drafted Isadore Lubin to serve on his Advisory Council.

Hinrichs' revelation completely demolishes the claims made by anti-labor propagandists and reactionary Congressmen that 40-hour-week legislation, with the frequent overtime, is holding up war production.

At the same time, Wage-Hour Administrator L. Metcalfe Walling declared in a radio address:

"Everyone now realizes that the requirement to pay over-time does not in any way limit the work week to 40 hours. The term '40-hour week' is derived from the fact that time and one-half must be paid for all hours worked over 40 in any given week.

"This is no time to cut the wages of millions of workers. This is no time to throw a monkey wrench into our delicately balanced economic machine, which we are trying so desperately to stabilize."

Washington C. L. U. Reaffirms No-Strike Pledge For Duration

Washington, D. C.—The Washington Central Labor Union, local affiliate of the AFL, reaffirmed its no-strike policy and pledged full cooperation in all efforts of the war effort.

"We shall continue our no-strike policy with full utilization of direct negotiation, or conciliation, mediation or arbitration," the statement said.

"Every pledge urges full effort for the maximum individual effort to increase war production. Union management must be sustained in every instance of strike, factious or unauthorized, by every union member and every industry connected with the war effort.

"To develop the men and women power to its utmost," the statement continued, "is the policy of organized labor in cooperation with management, regardless of sex, race, creed, or color must be pursued."

LABOR LAW VIOLATED

San Diego, Calif.—Despite the fact that San Diego hotels and restaurants are enjoying more prosperity than at any other time in San Diego's history, more complaints for non-payment of wages were filed against this industry last month than any other industry, Gus Said, Deputy Labor Commissioner, reported.

Nearly $3,000 in unpaid wages were recovered for San Diego Culinary workers by the local Labor Commissioner's office last month, Gus said.

News Briefs

MRS. ANNIE C. MEANY DIES IN NEW YORK CITY

New York City.—Mrs. Annie C. Meany, mother of AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, died at her home here on November 19 after a long illness.

Funeral services were held at the Fox Funeral Home and at St. Margaret Mary Church, where a solemn high mass was sung. She was buried at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

AFL UNITED NATIONS AID OPENS REGIONAL OFFICES

The opening of seven regional offices of the United Nations Relief of the American Federation of Labor was announced by Matthew Woll, president of the Labor League for Human Rights.

M. J. Lyden, president of the Ohio State Federation of Labor, assumes the post of regional director for Ohio, with regional headquarters at 405 Atlas Building, Columbus, O.

Other regional officers are: For New England, Henry E. Murray, of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers and a member of the educational committee of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor, with offices in Room 618, 150 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass.; Frank Coyle, a member of the Educational Committee of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor, director for the Keystone State, with headquarters in the Commonwealth Building, Twelfth and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia; Peter J. Schweitzer, a member of the Chicago Federation of Labor, as director for Illinois, with offices at 130 N. Wells Street, Room 1501, Chicago.

ACCIDENT TOLL HIGHER THAN WAR CASUALTIES

Chicago.—Accidental deaths of American civilians have exceeded deaths of American fighters by 7 to 1 since the war began, the Public Health Service reported. "Casualties to the United States armed forces from Pearl Harbor to Nov. 15, including the African campaign, have been 5,604 dead, 8,403 wounded and 39,827 missing or prisoners—a total of 48,866," the council stated.

"Casualties to American workers through accidents in the same period have been 34,500 dead and 3,800,000 wounded."

WEST VIRGINIA LABOR UNIT BACKS ALL-OUT WAR EFFORT

Charleston, W. Va.—The executive board of the West Virginia State Federation of Labor has unanimously, whole-heartedly endorsing the actions of the annual conventions of the AFL, Virginia State Federation of Labor and the American Federation of Labor to fully cooperate with all governmental agencies in the successful prosecution of an all-out war effort.

In addition, the executive board on behalf of the membership of the State Federation went on record as being in full accord with the purchase of war bonds and stamps.

WOLL PRAISES WOMEN IN ORGANIZED LABOR

New York City.—Women must be accorded an "integral and articulate part" in organized labor, declared Matthew Woll, vice president of the American Federation of Labor, in an address at the Women's International Exposition in Madison Square Garden.

He said that as an affiliate of the AFL, representing more than 2,000,000 men and women of the trade unionism movement, he could attest to the "marvelous adaptability of the women of labor."

"Organized labor welcomes among its new members more women than in any other period in the history of the movement," he declared, estimating that almost 2,500,000 women belong to labor unions today.

The AFL has one of the outstanding exhibits at the exposition, depicting the contributions of organized labor to the war, the can way of life and the vital role war workers, especially women workers, are playing in the war production program.

MACHINISTS GAIN VICTORY ON AIRCRAFT OVERTIME PAY

Burbank, Calif.—A major victory for aircraft workers has been won by Aeronautical Lodge 727, District 94, Lodge 727, Intl. Assn. of Machinists (AFL), with the acceptance by the Lockheed management, by a vote of 3 to 1, of the union's demands concerning the definite overtime pay under the so-called "spread" week and rotating work-week.

Workers, under the system formerly used by Lockheed and believed to be prevalent in other aircraft plants, were deprived of overtime pay to which they were entitled because the company held that time lost by a worker through no fault of his own was to be deducted from his overtime.

Green Denounces NLRB Complaint Against Kaiser As "Axis Victory"

Charges Board's Unjustified Action Against Shipyard Owner Will Cause Bitterness and Hurt Production

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green denounced the action of the National Labor Relations Board in issuing a complaint against three Henry J. Kaiser shipyards on the West Coast as "the outstanding Axis victory of the month."

"Henry J. Kaiser," Mr. Green declared, "is unquestionably one of the most outstanding employers in America. He treats his employes and the unions that represent them with utmost fairness. Labor-management cooperation in the Kaiser shipyards constitutes one of the outstanding achievements in progressive industrial relations of this country. The result has been record-breaking production, the kind of production America needs to win this war.

"Now the National Labor Relations Board accuses Mr. Kaiser of unfair labor practices and threatens to destroy the fine relationship between employer and employe as exists anywhere in the world.

"The basis of the NLRB complaint is the fact that Mr. Kaiser signed a closed-shop contract with 16 AFL unions before any appreciable number of employes was hired in these three shipyards.

"If such a contract is illegal or reprehensible, then every construction firm in the United States and the Government itself stands indicted by the National Labor Relations Board.

"Here we are with our new Army camps, Naval training stations and airfields built? Government agencies or private contractors working for the Government signed agreements with AFL unions to supply the men to do the work. It was done efficiently and in record-breaking time.

"By signing a similar agreement with a group of metal and building trades unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, Mr. Kaiser followed an innumerical, efficient and completely loyal trade practice. The results in his shipyards speak for themselves.

"But these considerations apparently were ignored by the National Labor Relations Board, just as it seems to have ignored the fact that there is a war on.

"If the board in its amazing detachment from reality and actuality finds its own complaint justified, it will then attempt to invalidate the American Federation of Labor's contract with Mr. Kaiser and call for an election among his employes.

"Thus union rivalry, bitterness and discord will be substituted for harmony and peaceful relations among the workers in these shipyards. Production will be detrimentally affected. Hitler will be the only gainer.

"The American Federation of Labor is determined not to let this happen for the protection of the nation's interests as well as the interests of its own unions. We will carry our protests to the highest officials of our Government, and if this is unavailing, we will go to Congress and ask for legislation which will throw the present incompetent, unfair and unrealistic administrators of the National Labor Relations Act out of office."

Morgenthau Lauds Labor's Support As New War Bond Drive Is Launched

Washington, D. C.—A high tribute to labor's cooperation with the Treasury Department in bringing the program was paid by Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., at a special labor press conference.

Secretary Morgenthau said:

"The Treasury normally looks to the financial community for backing, but I have always said that the most consistent and most helpful backing I get from this country comes from organized labor. I mean backing for the various things that we in the Treasury have been trying to do, particularly in the fields of taxes and War Bonds.

"I have always felt very strongly, right from the beginning, that the working man and woman understood more what this World War was about than anybody else, and they did not have to be propagandized to let them know what it was they were fighting against. In my recent trip to England I found that the working people there also know what it is all about, and they, too, have a deep-seated hatred against Hitler and what he stands for."

The press conference preceded the launching by the Treasury Department of a new drive to bring thirty million American wage earners under the 10 per cent pay-roll allotment plan for War Bonds. This program has been enthusiastically endorsed by the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated unions.

U. S.-British Solidarity Hailed By Green In Plea For Democracy

New York City—The American and British people, speaking the same language of democracy, are working together and fighting together to make democracy the universal language of the world, AFL President William Green declared at a dinner in his honor given by the Labor Division of British War Relief. His address follows:

"American workers want the people of Great Britain to know that we are with them to the finish. This feeling has found tangible expression in the past three years through the medium of gifts by the workers of this country to British War Relief. The sufferings of the British people and the indomitable spirit they have shown in defense of their homeland so touched the hearts of American workers that they willingly gave of their earnings to alleviate conditions of woe on the British Isles. Great quantities of food, clothing, medicines and hospital supplies have been shipped to Great Britain by the contributions of workers here. The International Ladies Garment Workers Union financed the building and equipment of a canteen in London for British seamen. Our International Firefighters Association raised more than $100,000 from its members and sent the fund to Britain for the relief of the British fire fighters who risk their lives night after night to save the lives and homes of their neighbors from incendiary bombs. I could cite countless other examples of generosity of American workers and labor unions, reflecting the esteem in which they hold their British colleagues.

"But, in a broader sense, it is not these individual and group contributions but by their united efforts — the war production front that American workers are rendering their greatest aid to Great Britain and to the cause of democracy. In record breaking time, they have produced the planes, tanks, ships and guns which have turned the tide of battle and have permitted the Allied Nations to take the offensive.

"And soldiers, British and American boys are fighting side by side in North Africa to deliver the world defeat to the Axis forces since the beginning of this war.

"It is not by a mere accident of fate that the people of the United States and Great Britain find themselves fighting on the same side in this war. We speak the same language literally and figuratively. It is the language of freedom, democracy and justice. We have now determined that this language, which finds its highest expression in the word Freedom, must be the universal language of our world.

"Great Britain and the United States have no selfish motives for territorial aggrandizement, for wider power, or for selfish gain. We are fighting this war for the preservation of ourselves and for every nation on earth. We are fighting this war to abolish tyranny, dictatorship, oppression and race hatreds. We are fighting to establish a lasting peace among the nations of the world, based on equal opportunity and justice for all.

"The mass murder inaugurated by our enemies, the blood of innocent millions and the sufferings and sacrifices all of us are now undergoing will be in vain unless our inevitable victory brings with it a full measure of social, economic and political security for the common people which can only be possible under a system of world-wide democracy.

"Dedicated to these high aims, the armies of Great Britain and, the United States are now on the march. They will not stop short of complete victory. To speed that day of victory, the production soldiers of Great Britain and the United States will toil unceasingly with the unconquerable spirit of free men and women."

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS DROP IN PENNSYLVANIA

Harrisburg, Pa. — Unemployment compensation benefits in Pennsylvania dropped to a new low level during the week November 13-18, Secretary of Labor and Industry Lewis G. Hines disclosed. Continued employment reported from groups now obtaining jobless benefits has reduced the weekly disbursement to $150,172.